

Keweenaw County Veterans Affairs

Meeting Minutes

January 8, 2021

January 8, 2021 Keweenaw County Veterans Affairs Office 10am

Roll Call: Present Barry Koljonen, Chair

- Ned Huwatschek, member
- Wes Aho, member
- Bill Hannon, member
- Derek Parkinen Veterans Service Officer, Keweenaw County

Absent: Del Rajala, member/county rep

Call to order: Meeting was called to order at 10am by Chairman Koljonen. The pledge of Allegiance was recited, and a moment of silence was observed in recognition of past Comrades and Veterans.

A motion to approve the agenda for today's meeting was made by Wes Aho, 2nd by Ned Huwatschek with all members in favor, Motion carried.

Guests: None

Public comment: None

Old Business: The board discussed obtaining a farewell plaque for Joe Finch. Chairman Barry Koljonen contacted Julie Carlson at the courthouse and the county will not use county millage funding for this plaque and this would require out of pocket funding by the board members.

The honor roll plaque in Ahmeek will be repaired and updated using Keweenaw County millage monies. The bid came in \$10,500 for stonework and \$4,800 for woodwork. The bid has been submitted and accepted with Johnson Construction doing this work. This was discussed at the previous board meeting on November 13, 2020 and this was approved to use county millage funding by Wes first and Bill seconding. A roll call vote was also held, and all members have voted yes. Barry will contact Buzz Johnson and advise him that he is able to start commencement of this project immediately.

New Business: The board discussed a meeting spot for the DAV Veterans Transportation Network van for complimentary transportation to the Oscar G. Johnson VA medical center in Iron Mountain to be the Allouez Township Community center. There is plenty of available parking with easy access to U.S. 41 and lighted parking for any veterans that need to park overnight for procedures that will ride the DAV van back to Allouez. The Houghton County VSO office has alerted their drivers that this will be the only stop for Keweenaw County veterans needing this assistance.

Currently Keweenaw Country contributes \$300 towards the van program. If there is a significant increase in the amount of Keweenaw County veterans that will be using this service, the board will discuss increasing this amount to \$500. This will continue to be disbursed from millage funding.

The Keweenaw County Veterans website still shows the Houghton County Veterans Affairs office handling the Keweenaw County Veterans. VSO Derek Parkinen will contact Ann Gasperich at the courthouse to have all the Houghton County information taken off our website and updated only with the Keweenaw County information. VSO Derek Parkinen will take care of this in the next upcoming week and verify the new information once updated.

A motion was made to approve the overage that occurred during the ordering of the Keweenaw Veterans Affairs promotional items. The current amount of funding for promotional items from our 2021 County Veteran Service Fund Grant is at \$1,300. The total price came in at \$1,408.28 due to the previous projections not including set up fees and freight. The extra amount will be allowed with our 10% overage with grant funding. A roll call vote was taken to allow this extra amount to be paid.

Koljonen Yes

Huwatschek Yes

Hannon Yes

Parkinen Yes

The board has decided to discuss the placement of cemetery of burial flags on the next meeting date of March 12th due to this being closer to the spring season.

A motion to adjourn was made by Wes at 1120am and seconded by Ned.